

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-106 were pending prior to this Reply. In the 17 December 2008 Office Action, which was indicated as Final, Claims 1-10, 14, 16, 23-25, 27 and 29-106 were allowed. Claims 11, 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e), and claims 13, 17-22, 26 and 28 were objected to as being dependent from rejected claims, but were indicated to be otherwise allowable if accordingly amended.

In this Reply, Claims 13, 22, 26, and 28 have been amended to be in independent form, as suggested by the examiner. No subject matter has been added. Claims 11, 12 and 15 have been cancelled herein. Thus, Claims 1-10, 13, 14, 16-106 remain for consideration.

Cancellation of subject matter in this Amendment is without prejudice to our future right to pursue such claims, or any other disclosed but unclaimed subject matter described in the application.

This response is filed with a request for continued examination to assure the consideration of the references cited in the accompanying IDS.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, a withdrawal of all rejections and a Notice of Allowability.

All claim rejections being addressed in full, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, who can be reached at (919) 483-9995.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Dwight S. Walker/

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Dwight S. Walker

Agent for Applicant

Registration No. 63,170

Customer No. 23347
GlaxoSmithKline
Five Moore Drive, P.O. Box 13398
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3398
Telephone: (919) 483-9995
Facsimile: (919) 315-4032